

§ 502.153 Appeal from ruling of presiding officer other than orders of dismissal in whole or in part.

(a) Rulings of the presiding officer may not be appealed prior to or during the course of the hearing, or subsequent thereto, if the proceeding is still before him or her, except where the presiding officer shall find it necessary to allow an appeal to the Commission to prevent substantial delay, expense, or detriment to the public interest, or undue prejudice to a party.

(b) Any party seeking to appeal must file a motion for leave to appeal no later than fifteen (15) days after written service or oral notice of the ruling in question, unless the presiding officer, for good cause shown, enlarges or shortens the time. Any such motion shall contain not only the grounds for leave to appeal but the appeal itself.

(c) Replies to the motion for leave to appeal and the appeal may be filed within fifteen (15) days after date of service thereof, unless the presiding officer, for good cause shown, enlarges or shortens the time. If the motion is granted, the presiding officer shall certify the appeal to the Commission.

(d) Unless otherwise provided, the certification of the appeal shall not operate as a stay of the proceeding before the presiding officer.

(e) The provisions of § 502.10 shall not apply to this section. [Rule 153.]

§ 502.154 Rights of parties as to presentation of evidence.

Every party shall have the right to present its case or defense by oral or documentary evidence, to submit rebuttal evidence, and to conduct such cross-examination as may be required for a full and true disclosure of the facts. The presiding officer shall, however, have the right and duty to limit the introduction of evidence and the examination and cross-examination of witnesses when in his or her judgment, such evidence or examination is cumulative or is productive of undue delay in the conduct of the hearing. [Rule 154.]

502.155 Burden of proof.

In all cases, as prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 556(d), the burden of proof shall be on

the proponent of the rule or order. [Rule 155.]

[61 FR 66617, Dec. 18, 1996]

§ 502.156 Evidence admissible.

In any proceeding under the rules in this part, all evidence which is relevant, material, reliable and probative, and not unduly repetitious or cumulative, shall be admissible. All other evidence shall be excluded. Unless inconsistent with the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act and these Rules, the Federal Rules of Evidence, Public Law 93–595, effective July 1, 1975, will also be applicable. [Rule 156.]

§ 502.157 Written evidence.

(a) The use of written statements in lieu of oral testimony shall be resorted to where the presiding officer in his or her discretion rules that such procedure is appropriate. The statements shall be numbered in paragraphs, and each party in its rebuttal shall be required to list the paragraphs to which it objects, giving an indication of its reasons for objecting. Statistical exhibits shall contain a short commentary explaining the conclusions which the offeror draws from the data. Any portion of such testimony which is argumentative shall be excluded. Where written statements are used, copies of the statement and any rebuttal statement shall be furnished to all parties, as shall copies of exhibits. The presiding officer shall fix respective dates for the exchange of such written rebuttal statements and exhibits in advance of the hearing to enable study by the parties of such testimony. Thereafter, the parties shall endeavor to stipulate as many of the facts set forth in the written testimony as they may be able to agree upon. Oral examination of witnesses shall thereafter be confined to facts which remain in controversy, and a reading of the written statements at the hearing will be dispensed with unless the presiding officer otherwise directs.

(b) Where a formal hearing is held in a rulemaking proceeding, interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to participate through submission of